

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented). A suspension liner sleeve adapted to provide an interface between a residual limb and a prosthetic socket, said liner sleeve comprising:

an elongate, generally conical body portion formed of a material that is at least radially elastically extendible from a relaxed non-extended condition and including proximal and distal end areas;

at least one recessed portion extending around at least one peripheral portion of the liner sleeve body portion between said proximal and distal end areas; and

at least one resilient seal element outwardly protruding from the liner sleeve body portion, the at least one resilient seal element having a first end portion secured within the at least one recessed portion and a second end portion arranged for deflection into or within the at least one recessed portion.

Claim 23 (Original). The suspension liner sleeve as claimed in claim 22, wherein said at least one resilient seal element is a separate seal body attached to the liner sleeve body portion.

Claim 24 (Original). The suspension liner sleeve as claimed in claim 22, wherein said at least one resilient seal element comprises a base member secured to the liner sleeve body portion within the at least one recessed portion.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Cancelled).

Claim 27 (Original). The suspension liner sleeve as claimed in claim 24, wherein the at least one recessed portion of the liner sleeve body portion has a depth substantially of the same dimension as the thickness of the at least one portion of the resilient seal element.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented). The suspension liner sleeve as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a reinforcement material associated with the liner sleeve body portion extending over a length at least coinciding with the location of said at least one resilient seal element and at least in a distal direction relative to said resilient seal element, said reinforcement material providing greater elastic stiffness in an axial direction relative to a radial direction of the liner sleeve body portion.

Claim 29 (Original). The suspension liner sleeve as claimed 28, wherein the reinforcement material extends substantially around the entire distal end area of the liner sleeve body portion.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented). A suspension liner sleeve adapted to provide an interface between a residual limb and a prosthetic socket, said liner sleeve comprising:

an elongate, generally conical body portion formed of a material that is at least radially elastically extendible from a relaxed non-extended condition and including proximal and distal end areas;

at least one recessed portion extending around at least one peripheral portion of the liner sleeve body portion between said proximal and distal end areas; and

a reinforcement material associated with the liner sleeve body portion extending about an axis of the liner sleeve body portion and over a length at least coinciding with the location of said at least one recessed portion.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented). The suspension liner sleeve as claimed in claim 30, wherein the reinforcement material associated with the liner sleeve body portion extends over a length at least in a distal direction relative to said

recessed portion, said reinforcement material providing greater elastic stiffness in an axial direction relative to a radial direction of the liner sleeve body portion.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented). The suspension liner sleeve as claimed in claim 30, wherein the reinforcement material associated with the liner sleeve body portion extends at least in a proximal direction relative to said at least one recessed portion, said reinforcement material providing greater elastic stiffness in an axial direction relative to a radial direction of the liner sleeve body portion.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented). The suspension liner sleeve as claimed in claim 30, wherein the at least one recessed portion is discrete and annularly extends around the liner sleeve body portion.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented). A suspension liner sleeve adapted to provide an interface between a residual limb and a prosthetic socket, said liner sleeve comprising:

an elongate, generally conical body portion formed of a material that is at least radially elastically extendible from a relaxed non-extended condition and including proximal and distal end areas; and

at least one recessed portion inwardly extending radially around at least one peripheral portion of the liner sleeve body portion between said proximal and

distal end areas, the at least one recessed portion oriented generally perpendicularly relative to an axis of the liner sleeve body portion.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented). A suspension liner sleeve adapted to provide an interface between a residual limb and a prosthetic socket, said liner sleeve comprising:

an elongate, generally conical body portion formed of a material that is at least radially elastically extendible from a relaxed non-extended condition and including proximal and distal end areas;

at least one recessed portion extending around at least one peripheral portion of the liner sleeve body portion between said proximal and distal end areas; and

at least one resilient seal element protruding from the liner sleeve body portion and comprising a base member secured to the liner sleeve body portion within the at least one recessed portion, a radially outwardly pitched member connected to a proximal end of the base member and a radially inwardly pitched member connected to a proximal end of the outwardly pitched member.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented). A suspension liner sleeve adapted to provide an interface between a residual limb and a prosthetic socket, said liner sleeve comprising:

an elongate, generally conical body portion formed of a material that is at least radially elastically extendible from a relaxed non-extended condition and including proximal and distal end areas;

at least one recessed portion extending around at least one peripheral portion of the liner sleeve body portion between said proximal and distal end areas; and

at least one resilient seal element protruding from the liner sleeve body portion;

wherein the at least one recessed portion is configured to permit generally outward extension of the at least one resilient seal therefrom and generally inward depression of the at least one resilient seal therein.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented). A suspension liner sleeve adapted to provide an interface between a residual limb and a prosthetic socket, said liner sleeve comprising:

an elongate, generally conical body portion formed of a material that is at least radially elastically extendible from a relaxed non-extended condition and including proximal and distal end areas;

at least one recessed portion extending around at least one peripheral portion of the liner sleeve body portion between said proximal and distal end areas; and

at least one resilient seal element outwardly extending from the liner sleeve body portion;

wherein the at least one recessed portion defines a clearance between an end wall portion thereof and a proximal end portion of the at least one resilient seal element when the at least one resilient seal element outwardly extends from the liner sleeve body portion.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented). A suspension liner sleeve adapted to provide an interface between a residual limb and a prosthetic socket, said liner sleeve comprising:

an elongate, generally conical body portion formed of a material that is at least radially elastically extendible from a relaxed non-extended condition and including proximal and distal end areas;

at least one recessed portion extending around at least one peripheral portion of the liner sleeve body portion between said proximal and distal end areas; and

at least one resilient seal element outwardly protruding from the liner sleeve body portion, the at least one resilient seal element having a first end portion secured within the at least one recessed portion and a pitched portion connected to the first end portion and extending obliquely towards the proximal end area.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented). A suspension liner sleeve adapted to provide an interface between a residual limb and a prosthetic socket, said liner sleeve comprising:

an elongate, generally conical body portion formed of a material that is at least radially elastically extendible from a relaxed non-extended condition and including proximal and distal end areas;

at least one recessed portion extending along at least one peripheral portion of the liner sleeve body portion between said proximal and distal end areas; and

at least one reinforcement material associated with the liner sleeve body portion extending about an axis of the liner sleeve body portion and reinforcing an entirety of the at least one recessed portion.

Application No.: 10/690,545
Examiner: David H. Willse
Art Unit: 3738

ELECTION

This is responsive to the Office action dated May 5, 2005 in the above-application.

Applicant hereby elects Invention III, as identified in the Office action for prosecution on the merits. Claims 22-24 and 26-39 are drawn to Invention III and examination of such claims is respectfully requested.

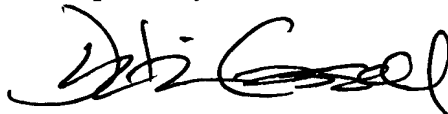
Applicant hereby reserves all rights to the non-elected subject matter. The non-elected claims are cancelled in the AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS and refiled in divisional applications.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicants' attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Date: May 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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